in international trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and reimbursing certain WTO admissible cost on account of marketing and transport.

Contract farming

2516. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco farmers are opposing the move to introduce contract farming and are in favour of retaining the present production and auction system;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) There have been suggestions in passing from certain quarters that contract farming, on a limited scale, particularly where foreign direct investment is concerned, could be allowed in the Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco sector. The Tobacco Growers' Association have urged, however, that the present system be continued. At present, Government do not propose to change this system.

Revival of cement factories

†2517. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sell all cement factories which are running in loss;

(b) if so, the norms prescribed for this purpose; and

(c) if not, whether Government have considered the measures to revive and provide more funds to them, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH):(a) to (c) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) is the only cement company in the Public Sector. CCI has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

been recurring losses and was referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR has declared CCI as sick under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA), 1985. The BIFR, which is a Quasi Judicial body, has already directed for sale of CCI as a whole, or its plants individually or collectively.

Implementation of Labour Laws in EPZs and SEZs

2518. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the units in the Export Processing Zones and Special Economic Zones exempted from implementation of Labour Laws;

(b) the details of the laws which are not applicable in the EPZs and SEZs in the country; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure implementation of Labour Laws and protect the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The units in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are governed by normal labour laws, which are enforced by the respective State Government. Action against the defaulting units, wherever warranted, is taken by the concerned authorities.

Import of edible oil

†2519. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import edible oil on a large scale;

(b) whether it is also a fact that both traders and farmers are opposing this move since this would ruin their market; and

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.